

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph of Section 5.1, page 4 with the following.

a¹

The NHIEPs described for the first time herein are novel proteins that may be expressed in, *inter alia*, human cell lines, fetal brain, brain, pituitary, cerebellum, spinal cord, lymph node, lung, prostate, adrenal gland, skeletal muscle, esophagus, pericardium, hypothalamus, fetal kidney, tongue, 6-12 [[12]] week embryos, and osteosarcoma cells.

Please replace the last paragraph of page 10 with the following.

a²

In yet another embodiment, the antisense oligonucleotide is an α -anomeric oligonucleotide. An α -anomeric oligonucleotide forms specific double-stranded hybrids with complementary RNA in which, contrary to the usual β -units, the strands run parallel to each other (Gautier *et al.*, 1987, Nucl. Acids Res. 15:6625-6641). The oligonucleotide is a 2'-0-methylribonucleotide (Inoue *et al.*, 1987, Nucl. Acids Res. 15:6131-6148), or a chimeric RNA-DNA analogue (Inoue *et al.*, 1987, FEBS Lett. 215:327-330). Alternatively, double stranded RNA can be used to disrupt the expression and function of a targeted NHIEP.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 2 to read as follows.

a³

1. (presently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of the ion exchanger ~~first disclosed in~~ of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2 (presently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:

- a. encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- b. hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

Please add new claims 5 -8.

a⁴

5. (new) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.
6. (new) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

a⁴ 7. (new) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 5.

8. (new) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 6.